



NSW RETURN TO SCHOOL ROADMAP (LEVEL 3 ONLY)

Friday, 10 September 2021

This roadmap provides guidance set by NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education on the return to school.

The requirements to be followed depend on what level a Local Government Area School is assessed by NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education. This summary reflects the assessment for a Local Government Area being at Level 3.

Learning Delivery Model

To provide a safe learning environment for students, minimise opportunities for transmission and enable the most effective contact tracing and containment measures in the event of a COVID-19 case, schools will be required to adopt a cohort model.

The principles of student cohorting are to:

- minimise unnecessary physical interaction between students on school grounds;
- ensure that students learn and play only with those in their cohort, wherever possible;
- minimise opportunities for transmission and enhance contact tracing; and
- minimise the potential for widespread infection across the school and wider school community.

For a large school, cohort can refer to a whole year group e.g. all of Year 6. In a small school, cohort can refer to a group of students over several year groups e.g. all student in Kindergarten to Year 2. This will be determined at the school level to best suit the school's needs.

| Level | Restriction Description Summary |
|-----------|--|
| 4 | Remote learning from home. |
| 3+ | When stay-at-home rules are still in place but other community vaccination and transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staged way. This is a staggered return for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities. |
| 3 | Areas across NSW that are removed from stay-at-home rules will return to school under Level 3 settings. Schools returning through the full return model should refer to the Level 3 guidance for schools. |

| Return Date | CECG Schools |
|---|---|
| Monday 13 September 2021 | St Joseph's ADELONG, St Mary's BATLOW, St Joseph's BOOROWA, Sacred Heart COOTAMUNDRA, St Mary's CROOKWELL, St Patrick's GUNDAGAI, St Joseph's GRENFELL, St Francis Xavier LAKE CARGELLIGO, Trinity MURRUMBURRAH, St Anne's TEMORA, McAuley Central TUMUT, St Mary's WEST WYALONG, Hennessy College YOUNG, St Mary's YOUNG |

Primary Schools - Stage 3

| Area | Requirement |
|---|--|
| School Start Times | Principals will consider staggered school start times and drop off locations to minimise mixing of students. |
| Student Gatherings | Limit mingling of any cohort during (staggered) breaks and no assemblies. |
| Years to Return to School | All year groups may return at the same time. |
| Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will determine the mode of learning and cohort groupings to be implemented based on the return rate of students and COVID-Safe practices, ensuring all students have access to teaching and learning. • The preferred model at Level 3 is face-to-face learning. • Classroom teachers will ideally be the allocated teacher for one cohort to limit the potential exposure should there be a positive COVID case in the school. • Each cohort should be allocated a learning space, completing all lessons and break times with their allocated cohort. • In some schools (such as smaller schools, or those with a stage-based class structure), Principals may choose to amalgamate smaller classes to form one cohort, while adhering to class size policy. Students must then remain in this cohort. |
| Social Distancing | Students should maintain strict personal hygiene and physical distance wherever possible. |
| Playgrounds | Play equipment should be wiped down between use – see below in <i>General Guidelines – Cleaning</i> . |
| Masks (further information below in General Guidelines) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are mandatory for all staff. • Masks are strongly encouraged for primary students. • Staff and students should bring their own masks where possible. |

Secondary Schools - Level 3

| Area | Requirement |
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| School Start Times | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools with secondary students should adopt a year-based cohorting model, which will determine their arrival, break and leave times, where possible.• Schools may create smaller cohorts within year groups where subject choices and flexible timetabling allow based on the return rate of students and COVID-Safe practices ensuring all students have access to teaching and learning. |
| Student Gatherings | Mingling of any cohort during breaks is discouraged (staggered) and assemblies are not to be held. |
| Masks (further information below in General Guidelines) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are mandatory for all staff.• Masks are mandatory for all students Year 7 and above.• Staff and students should bring their own masks where possible. |
| Social Distancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should maintain strict personal hygiene and physical distance wherever possible |
| Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These measures should enable secondary school students and teachers to return to their normal timetable. |

General Guidelines – Level 3

| Area | Requirement |
|------------------------------|--|
| Drop-off and Pick-ups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals should consider staggered school start times and drop off locations to minimise mixing of students. • Drop-offs and pick-ups should be staggered by cohorts, and schools are to use all possible entrances and exits to support the beginning and end of school days. • Parents and carers must follow their school’s advice regarding changes to student drop-off and pick-up. This includes staying in the car when dropping off and picking up children if it is safe to do so. This does not apply to drop off and pick up from outside of school hours care (OOSHC) as sign-in and -out procedures are required. <p>Parents and carers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain physical distance • Remain outside school grounds (except when providing care to vulnerable students and/or those with a disability) • Wear a mask • Sign in using the Service NSW QR code. |
| Bus Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever possible students should be transported to school by private vehicle to minimise mixing en-route to school. • Students should be encouraged to sanitise their hands prior to entering and exiting transport vehicles. • Bus companies are responsible for employing and complying with COVID-Safe practices when transporting children to and from school. • Students should be encouraged to not eat or drink whilst using public transport as this might lead to groups of children seated together removing their facemasks at the same time, increasing the risk of transmission. |
| Masks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are mandatory for all staff, and for all students Year 7 and above. • Masks are strongly encouraged for primary students. • School mask supplies are a back-up only. |
| Visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites. Allied health professionals, essential infrastructure workers and maintenance crews are permitted. |

General Guidelines – Level 3 (cont)

| Area | Requirement |
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| Support Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff providing essential support for student wellbeing are permitted on site, such as HSLO, counsellors and CEO staff. |
| Ventilation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes keeping windows and doors open. |
| Cleaning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current cleaning regimes will continue on school sites. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. Enhanced cleaning is delivered as part of the daily cleaning of schools. |
| Canteens | <p>Canteens can operate where appropriate hygiene measures are in place, as long as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they can ensure that they are accessed by one cohort at a time physical distancing is in place canteen staff follow normal COVID-Safe protocols around vaccinations and testing. |
| Shared Spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared spaces, such as changing rooms, libraries, school halls and other communal areas, may only be used by one cohort at a time, with adherence to strict personal hygiene protocols and physical distancing requirements. |
| School based Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance and/or drama are permitted in line with COVID-Safe practices within classes in outdoor spaces. Mixing of classes is not permitted (except for HSC assessment purposes with COVID-Safe practices in place). Schools must implement COVID-Safe arrangements for exams to minimise mixing between students, ensure that students are appropriately spaced and that exams are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces. |
| Uniform Stores | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform stores can only operate if they are online or have pre-ordering arrangements in place, with one dedicated staff member attending outside of school hours to arrange distribution. |
| End of year celebrations, formals, graduations, orientations, transitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further advice will be provided in Term 4. |
| VET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VET in schools work placement is deferred until further notice in line with NESA advice. Trade schools, VET and TAFE courses should continue to be delivered virtually or deferred. School based apprenticeships and traineeships training should continue to be delivered virtually or deferred. Employment for these programs is deferred. Work experience should be deferred. |

General Guidelines – Level 3 (cont)

| Area | Requirement |
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| Banned Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singing, chanting, group repetition and choirs (except for HSC preparation)• Sport (except for sport within existing PDHPE classes, provided this limits student mixing).• Bands and ensembles.• Emergency drills.• Interschool activities/events including interschool sport, gala days, trials, carnivals.• Assemblies.• School performances, productions, concerts, speech nights and award presentations.• Excursions, camps, field trips and principal-endorsed activities for students.• International excursions.• Student visits to aged care facilities.• School orientation activities.• Community events (fetes, grandparents' days etc.).• Playgroups.• P&F activities, including meetings (unless held online only).• All external providers and specialist programs not directly related to educational outcomes and support, including community use of school facilities (such as markets and all after school activities) unless delivered online only.• School holiday programs (noting that vacation care programs on school sites may continue under current guidelines). |